

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 552

By Johnson

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Colonel Lee B. Ragland, United States Marine Corps, for his outstanding and distinguished military career.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to specially recognize members of the United States Armed Forces who have established distinguished records in their military careers and who have demonstrated great courage and competence in service to their country; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Lee B. Ragland, United States Marine Corps, a native of Nashville, Tennessee, is one such outstanding officer who, since August of 1982, has served this country in both peace and war with great valor, professionalism, and dedication to duty, earning a much-deserved retirement from active duty on October of 2007; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Auburn University, Lee B. Ragland received his Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Management in 1982, and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps in August of 1982; and

WHEREAS, completing the Basic Course at Quantico, Virginia, in April of 1983, 2nd Lt. Ragland reported to the Naval Air Training Command in Pensacola, Florida, and was designated a Naval Aviator in July of 1984; and

WHEREAS, 2nd Lt. Ragland reported for duty with the Marine Medium Helicopter Training Squadron 204 (HMT-204) at Marine Corps Air Station New River, North Carolina, in October of 1984, where he was designated an H2P in the CH-46E helicopter in January of 1985, continuing to serve as the CH-46 RAG flight schedule writer for HMT-204 until April of 1984; and

WHEREAS, upon his promotion to the rank of First Lieutenant, he was assigned to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 264 (HMM-264) where he served as the Training Officer

and later as the Airframes Division Officer; during his time with HMM-264 Lt. Ragland would be deployed twice to the Mediterranean Sea as part of the 24th Marine Amphibious Unit and the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) supporting Landing Force, 6th Fleet; and

WHEREAS, in July of 1988, now Captain Lee B. Ragland would be assigned to HMM-266 and participate in arctic operations in Norway and then completed his tour in North Carolina as the Forward Air Controller for the 2nd Tank Battalion, II Marine Division, from July 1989 to July of 1990; and

WHEREAS, re-assigned to sunny Florida and Naval Air Command at Pensacola, Florida, Captain Ragland would serve two years as a T-34C flight instructor with VT-2 at Naval Air Station Whiting Field before attending the Marine Corps Amphibious Warfare School in Quantico, Virginia, from August 1992 to May 1993; and

WHEREAS, upon completion of Amphibious Warfare School, Captain Ragland was transferred to HMT-301, Marine Corps Air Station Tustin, California, for refresher training in the CH-46E and was then assigned to HMM-161 and promoted to the rank of Major; and

WHEREAS, from August of 1993 to July of 1995, Major Ragland served as the Logistics Officer for HMM-161 and deployed to WESTPAC twice as part of the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) and again as part of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (SOC) after relocating to Marine Corps Air Station El Toro, California, as part of HMM-161 where he served as Aircraft Maintenance Officer from July 1995 to October 1997; and

WHEREAS, reporting to the Commanding Officer of HMX-1, Quantico, Virginia, for duty in November of 1997, Major Ragland served as Chief Operational Test Director for the squadron's CH and UH helicopter test assets and later as the Executive Officer; and

WHEREAS, promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in July of 1999, Lt. Col. Lee B. Ragland had the special honor and privilege of being designated a Presidential Command Pilot and safely executed 95 Presidential flights as the "Marine One" aircraft commander for both President Bill Clinton and President George W. Bush; and

WHEREAS, a designated aircraft commander in the VH-3D, the VH-60N and the CH-46E, Lt. Col. Ragland was transferred in May of 2002 to Marine Corps Air Station Futenma,

Okinawa, Japan, where he served Executive Officer until assuming the command of Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Futenma in May of 2003; and

WHEREAS, promoted to the rank of Colonel in October of 2004, Colonel Ragland was transferred to his final assignment as Operations Officer for Marine Corps Bases Japan at MCB Camp S. D. Butler; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Ragland has logged more than 6,600 flight hours and flown over 3,000 tactical hours in the CH-46E helicopter and was an aircraft commander in the UC-12 and UC-35 aircraft; his awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal with Gold Star, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Gold Star, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and the Presidential Service Badge; and

WHEREAS, the distinguished military career of Colonel Ragland can only be categorized as outstanding, and his courage and competence are unquestioned; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we commend Colonel Lee B. Ragland on his outstanding career with the United States Marine Corps, praise him for his dedication to his country, and thank him for his unceasing commitment to duty and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.